
By: **Delegate Marriott**

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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Role of Alternative Providers in Supporting the Bridge to**
3 **Excellence in Public Schools Act**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the Role of Alternative Providers in
5 Supporting the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act; providing for the
6 membership of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to designate the
7 chairman of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force;
8 requiring the Task Force to survey, review, and identify certain matters and take
9 certain actions; requiring the Task Force to submit a report of its findings,
10 activities, and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by a
11 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
12 the Task Force on the Role of Alternative Providers in Supporting the Bridge to
13 Excellence in Public Schools Act.

14 Preamble

15 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the importance of providing
16 early childhood education and development opportunities to the children of Maryland;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Existing providers of early learning and child care that are
19 operating under licensure by the Department of Human Resources or that are
20 approved by the Department of Education have been a major resource to the State
21 and the parents and children of the State in meeting their needs for early childhood
22 education and child care; and

1 WHEREAS, The Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act, first enacted as
2 Chapter 288 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002, represents a significant
3 financial challenge to the State and to local governments; and

4 WHEREAS, The continued viability and capability of the existing network of
5 early learning and child care providers is important to Maryland families and to the
6 availability of child care for the children of workers in Maryland businesses; and

7 WHEREAS, There is an opportunity to meet the goals of the Bridge to
8 Excellence in Public Schools Act and to serve more children through collaboration
9 among State agencies, local public school systems, and existing providers of early
10 childhood education and child care; now, therefore,

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That:

13 (a) There is a Task Force on the Role of Alternative Providers in Supporting
14 the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act.

15 (b) The Task Force ~~shall be composed of 13 members as follows~~ consists of the
16 following members:

17 (1) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
18 the House;

19 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
20 the Senate;

21 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources, or the
22 Secretary's designee;

23 (4) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's
24 designee;

25 (5) the Special Secretary for the Governor's Office for Children, Youth,
26 and Families, or the Special Secretary's designee;

27 (6) a representative from the Maryland Association of Boards of
28 Education, appointed by the Governor;

29 (7) a representative from the Public School Superintendents Association
30 of Maryland, appointed by the Governor;

31 (8) a representative from the Maryland Association of Counties,
32 appointed by the Governor;

33 (9) a representative from the Maryland Committee for Children, Inc.,
34 appointed by the Governor;

35 (10) a representative from the Maryland State Child Care Association,
36 appointed by the Governor;

1 (11) a representative from the Maryland State Family Care Association,
2 appointed by the Governor;

3 (12) a representative from the organization, Ready at Five;~~and,~~
4 appointed by the Governor;

5 (13) a member from the general public, appointed by the Governor; and

6 (14) a representative from Advocates for Children and Youth, Inc.,
7 appointed by the Governor.

8 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force from among
9 its members.

10 (d) ~~The Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families~~ State Department
11 of Education shall provide staff support to the Task Force.

12 (e) The Task Force shall:

13 (1) survey existing alternative early learning and child care providers to
14 determine their capacity and capability to provide prekindergarten and kindergarten
15 services required under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act;

16 (2) review the capacity of local school systems to meet the requirements
17 under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act for prekindergarten and
18 kindergarten services for the 2007-2008 school year and each school year thereafter;

19 (3) review the master plans submitted by local school systems to meet
20 the requirements under the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act for
21 prekindergarten and kindergarten services for the 2007-2008 school year and each
22 school year thereafter, and the extent to which the master plans leverage the capacity
23 and capability of alternative early learning and child care providers to meet the
24 requirements under the Act;

25 (4) review best practices in other states in utilizing alternative early
26 learning and child care providers to provide prekindergarten and kindergarten
27 services for public school students;

28 (5) identify any obstacles in the State in utilizing the capability of
29 alternative early learning and child care providers as part of an overall strategy to
30 provide prekindergarten and kindergarten services required under the Bridge to
31 Excellence in Public Schools Act and the practicable and feasible steps that would be
32 necessary to overcome these obstacles, including the associated costs;

33 (6) identify the potential costs and savings for the State and for local
34 governments if alternative early learning and child care providers are enabled to
35 work in collaboration with local school systems to provide prekindergarten and
36 kindergarten services required by the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act;

1 (7) develop a report and series of recommendations for the Governor and
2 the General Assembly to enable alternative early learning and child care providers to
3 provide prekindergarten and kindergarten services required under the Bridge to
4 Excellence in Public Schools Act in collaboration with local school systems;

5 (8) assist the Governor and State and local agencies in implementing the
6 recommendations developed by the Task Force; and

7 (9) take other action as necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of
8 the Task Force.

9 (f) A member of the Task Force:

10 (1) may not receive compensation; but

11 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
12 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

13 (g) The Task Force shall submit a report of its activities, findings, and
14 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
15 Government Article, to the General Assembly by December 1, 2004.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
17 effect July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
18 June 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
19 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.